

PATENT APPLICATION
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : François GIRARD et al.) Group Art Unit 3618
Appln. No. : 10/635,600) Examiner Not Yet Known
Docket No. : P23947) Confirmation No. 9581
Customer No. : 7055)
Filed : August 7, 2003)
Title : BINDING DEVICE WITH)
FRONT UNFASTENING)



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 CFR §1.56 and in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98, the following information is brought to the attention of the Examiner for his or her consideration during the examination of the instant application.

The documents identified below are being brought to the attention of the Examiner as being relevant for reasons cited in parent application No. 10/054,913, as explained below.

The following seven documents were cited by Applicants in an information disclosure statement filed on April 25, 2002 in the aforementioned parent application (and, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609, copies of the following documents are not enclosed, inasmuch as copies have been made of record in the parent application):

U.S. Patent No. 3,955,825 (KUBELKA et al.), issued on May 11, 1976;

U.S. Patent No. 4,959,913 (PROVENCE et al.), issued on October 2, 1990;

French Patent Publication No. 2 264 572 (GERTSCH AG.), published on October 17, 1975;

French Patent Publication No. 2 634 131 (SALOMON S.A.), published on January 19, 1990;

French Patent Publication No. 2 804 613 (SALOMON S.A.), published on August 10, 2001;

Netherlands Patent Publication No. 1008552 (HANDELSONDERNEMING KWAST TE WESTZAAN), published on September 21, 1999;

International Patent Publication No. WO 95/32773 (KANSONEN), published on December 7, 1995.

The following eight documents were cited by the Examiner in his Office action of August 28, 2003 in the aforementioned parent application (and, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609, copies of the following documents are not enclosed, inasmuch as copies have been made of record in the parent application):

U.S. Patent No. 3,834,723 (ERLEBACH), issued on September 10, 1974;

U.S. Patent No. 3,924,869 (STRUB), issued on December 9, 1975;

U.S. Patent No. 4,191,395 (SALOMON), issued on March 4, 1980;

U.S. Patent No. 4,403,785 (HOTTEL), issued on September 13, 1983;

U.S. Patent No. 4,418,937 (SALOMON), issued on December 6, 1983;

U.S. Patent No. 4,653,203 (DeMATTHEIS), issued on March 31, 1987;

U.S. Patent No. 6,062,586 (KORMAN), issued on May 16, 2000;

German Patent Publication No. 36 40 220 (STRUB), published on June 9, 1988.

In addition to the fifteen documents cited above, which had been made of record in the aforementioned parent application, the following documents are brought to the attention of the Examiner as being relevant for having been cited in a search report in French priority Application No. 02.10185, one of two priority applications upon which the instant application is based (documents cited in a search report issued in connection with an earlier-filed priority application (French Application No. 01.01603 were cited in the aforementioned parent application and are mentioned above). A copy of the search report of the aforementioned priority application FR 02.10185, and a copy of an annex thereto, indicating "family member" documents, are attached.

For compliance with the "concise explanation" requirement set forth in 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3), consistent with U.S. Patent and Trademark Office policy, Applicants describe below any comments relating to pertinent portions of the respective documents, where such comments appear in the search report.

U.S. Patent No. 4,836,572 (POZZOBON), issued on June 6, 1989, is cited in the aforementioned search report of priority application FR 02.10185 as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (i.e., a category "A" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1, 4, and 14 of that priority application. The entirety of US '572 is cited as being pertinent.

International Patent Publication No. WO 01/93963 (ROTTEFELLA AS), published on December 13, 2001, is cited in the aforementioned search report of priority application FR 02.10185 as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (i.e., a category "A" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 10, and 14 of that priority application. The entirety of WO '963 is cited as being pertinent.

U.S. Application Publication No. 2003/0168830 (HAUGHLIN), published on September 11, 2003, is an English language family member of WO '963.

In addition, the following documents are brought to the attention of the Examiner as being relevant for reasons mentioned in the specification of the instant application:

International Application No. WO 00/13755 (SALOMON S.A.), published on March 16, 2000, is cited in paragraphs 0005, 0006, 0010 of the specification of the instant application;

U.S. Patent No. 6,499,761 (QUELLAIS), issued on December 31, 2002, is cited in paragraphs 0005, 0006, 0010, 0018 of the specification of the instant application;

European Patent Publication No. 890 379 (FRITSCHI), published on January 13, 1999, is cited in paragraph 0005 of the specification of the instant application;

International Application No. WO 96/37269 (GIERVELD), published on November 28, 1996, is cited in paragraphs 0007 and 0010 of the specification of the instant application;

U.S. Patent No. 6,113,111 (GIERVELD et al.), issued on September 5, 2000, is cited in paragraphs 0007, 0010, 0015, 0018 of the specification of the instant application;

European Patent Publication No. 913 102 (SALOMON S.A.), published on May 6, 1999, is cited in paragraph 0019 of the specification of the instant application;

European Patent Publication No. 913 103 (SALOMON S.A.), published on May 6, 1999, is cited in paragraph 0019 of the specification of the instant application;

U.S. Patent No. 6,289,610 (GIRARD et al.), issued on September 18, 2001, is cited in paragraph 0019 of the specification of the instant application.

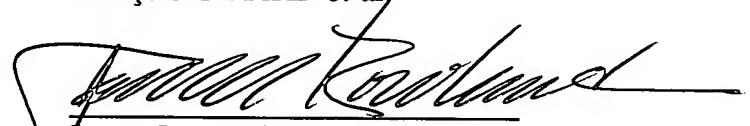
Finally, U.S. Patent No. 6,017,050 (GIRARD), issued on January 25, 2000 is brought to the attention of the Examiner.

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609, except for documents that had been cited in Applicants' aforementioned parent application, a copy of each of the above-mentioned documents is attached. Further, each document mentioned above is listed on the attached PTO-1449 form to permit the Examiner to indicate his or her consideration thereof.

The Examiner is requested to consider the documents cited above and to confirm such consideration by appropriately initialling the listings on the PTO-1449 forms and returning a copy of the initialled forms to Applicants.

Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone or fax number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
François GIRARD et al



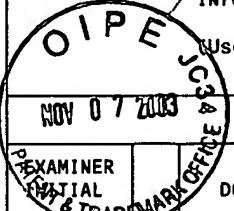
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Attached: Copy of search report from priority application FR 02.10185
Copies of documents not of record in parent application No. 10/054,913

Form PTO-1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office							Atty. Docket No. P23947	Application No. 10/635,600				
									Applicants François GIRARD et al.					
									Filing Date August 7, 2003	Group Art Unit 3618				
NOV 07 2003 O P E N C O M P A C T		U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS												
EXAMINER INITIALS TRADEMARK EXAMINER	SEARCHER	DOCUMENT NUMBER					DATE	NAME		CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE		
		3	8	3	4	7	2	3	9-1974	ERLEBACH	280	613		
		3	9	2	4	8	6	9	12-1975	STRUB	280	613		
		3	9	5	5	8	2	5	5-1976	KUBELKA et al.	280	618		
		4	1	9	1	3	9	5	3-1980	SALOMON	280	613		
		4	4	0	3	7	8	5	9-1983	HOTTEL	280	14.23		
		4	4	1	8	9	3	7	12-1983	SALOMON	280	613		
		4	6	5	3	2	0	3	3-1987	DE MATTHEIS	280	613		
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS														
		DOCUMENT NUMBER					DATE	COUNTRY		CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES	NO	
		8	9	0	3	7	9	1-1999	EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE	-----	-----	ABSTRACT		
		9	1	3	1	0	2	5-1999	EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE	-----	-----	ABSTRACT		
		9	1	3	1	0	3	5-1999	EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE	-----	-----	ABSTRACT		
		2	2	6	4	5	7	2	10-1975	FRANCE	-----	-----		X
		2	6	3	4	1	3	1	1-1990	FRANCE	-----	-----		X
		2	8	0	4	6	1	3	8-2001	FRANCE	-----	-----		X
		3	6	4	0	2	2	0	6-1988	FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY	-----	-----		X
		1	0	0	8	5	5	2	9-1999	NETHERLANDS	-----	-----		X
WO	95	/	3	2	7	7	3	12-1995	WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORG.	-----	-----	ENGLISH		
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)														
		U.S. Application Publication No. 2003/0168830 (HAUGHLIN), published on September 11, 2003.												
EXAMINER									DATE CONSIDERED					
*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.														

Form PTO-1449  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)									Atty. Docket No. P23947	Application No. 10/635,600	
		Applicants François GIRARD et al.									
		Filing Date August 7, 2003							Group Art Unit 3618		
		U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS									
EXAMINER INITIAL & TRADE MARK OFFICE	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME				CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE		
	4 8 3 6 5 7 2	6-1989	POZZOBON				280	613			
	4 9 5 9 9 1 3	10-1990	PROVENCE et al.				36	117			
	6 0 1 7 0 5 0	1-2000	GIRARD et al.				280	615			
	6 0 6 2 5 8 6	5-2000	KORMAN				280	613			
	6 1 1 3 1 1 1	9-2000	GIERVELD et al.				280	11.15			
	6 2 8 9 6 1 0	9-2001	GIRARD et al.				36	117.2			
	6 4 9 9 7 6 1	12-2002	QUELLAIS				280	623			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS											
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY				CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO		
WO 96 / 3 7 2 6 9	11-1996		WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORG.				-----	-----	ENGLISH		
WO 00 / 1 3 7 5 5	3-2000		WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORG.				-----	-----	ABSTRACT		
WO 01 / 9 3 9 6 3	12-2001		WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORG.				-----	-----	ABSTRACT		
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)											
EXAMINER					DATE CONSIDERED						
*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.											